



## Introduction:

The Economic and Social Council (ESC) of Jordan advises on a diverse range of important economic and social issues and policies, based on its vision of forming a national framework for dialogue and building consensus among social partners, through the participation of representatives from professional institutions and expertise in reviewing and evaluating legislations and policies. The ESC publishes reports, studies and working papers resulting from dialogues, research and the studies of lived experiences of Jordanians. Findings and recommendations are presented to key decision makers to take action, which will support the executive, legislative and judicial authorities in decision-making and formulation of evidence-based policies. Simultaneously, the ESC incorporates partners' perspectives towards balanced and sustainable economic and social development.

Since its establishment in 2009, priorities for the ESC including working on the links between women's empowerment and gender equality and the Sustainable Development Goals, with particular focus on Goal 5. Currently, Jordan faces several challenges including the consequences of the pandemic, which continues for the second year in a row, climate change and natural disasters exacerbated by poverty, unemployment and health, which have impacted many of our priorities.

The completion and launch of the report on the **“General Framework for Gender Equality in Jordan”** is a result of the collaboration and partnership with UN Women. We hope that this report will complement the efforts by key stakeholders to support decision-makers through its actionable recommendations to adopt direct measures to overcome societal and practical obstacles faced by Jordanian women and support them in different fields and at all levels. It can also serve as a useful reference for researchers, practitioners and policymakers working towards gender equality and women's empowerment. It presents an in-depth analysis at the national level, including quantitative and qualitative comparisons of the differences in opportunities for women and men within the Jordanian economic and social environment.

The report includes the study and analysis of women and girls who are particularly vulnerable to discrimination due to living with disability or being refugees. The efforts led by the Government, women leaders and civil society organizations to promote gender equality and women's empowerment reflect the strong commitment towards a comprehensive national program for the advancement of Jordanian women, considering their rights and needs and must be commended.

The significant and sustained support for women from His Majesty King Abdullah II must be mentioned, as reflected in the outcomes of the Royal Committee for the Modernization of the

Political System in the constitutional amendments, which promote women's rights within the framework of equality of rights and duties and the state's commitment to empower them and protect them against discrimination. The outcomes also strengthen women's roles and status within laws governing political life, particularly in relation to parties and elections, which are currently towards the end of the constitutional stages for adoption.

It must be noted that with significant achievements in the areas of legislation, education and health for women, economic participation remains the greatest challenge, with one of the lowest economic participation rates globally and among Arab states and with a very high unemployment rate. Women continue to suffer from violence and societal discrimination, indicating that further work is required from all stakeholders to support women in being important and active partners in Jordan's overall development process.

We hope that this work enriches the understanding of women's lived realities and that the recommendations will help in their advancement and progress, as well as strengthens the efforts by institutions working in this area.

Finally, I extend my thanks, appreciation and praise to all those involved with this report, which would not have emerged without the concerted efforts and cooperation from Ministries and institutions in the public and private sectors and civil society, steering committees of various stakeholders, researchers involved in the preparation of the report, and particularly to UN Women for its continued support to the Council and to this report. .

**Chair of the Economic and Social Council  
Prof. Musa Shteivi**